



BULLETIN

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August 2001

DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

Henry L. Green

Electrical Chief Appointment

Stella Morris has been appointed to the position of chief of the Electrical Division. Ms. Morris has been an inspector and plan reviewer with the bureau for the past seven years. Prior to her state service, Ms. Morris served on the Electrical Administrative Board and owned and operated an electrical contracting business.

Currently, the division is undergoing several changes as a result of the retirement of the former chief; the integration of many local licensing programs; and, gearing up for the new 2000 Michigan Residential Code.

Ms. Morris is excited about the challenges ahead and is anxious to get out and meet with contractor associations and local inspectors to discuss common issues and concerns.

Bureau Streamlining Efforts

In other news across the bureau, the management team is working to streamline functions and bring together areas of commonality. Bureau staff are in the process of finalizing plans for an internal reorganization to provide more efficient service.

We continue to strive for better ways to serve our customers and believe the changes that lie ahead will help us achieve our goal. It is anticipated the reorganization plan will be approved and all details will be provided in the next edition of the bulletin.

Elevator Safety Code

*by Calvin W. Rogler
Chief, Elevator Division*

The process for adoption of the changes in the Michigan Elevator Rules has started. The advisory committee, made up of major interest groups affected by the rules, should start work in August. The committee will review the latest editions of the ASME codes along with current rules and make recommendations for adoption. Public hearings will be scheduled once the draft rules are approved by the Office of Regulatory Reform and the Legislative Service Bureau. Comments or suggestions may be made at the hearing or in writing within 21 days of the hearing.

A major change has been the removal of Section 2000 and 2001, platform lifts and stairway chairlifts from the A17.1 standard. This code cycle we will be working with the ASME A17.1-2000 edition of the Safety Code for Elevators and Escalators, and the ASME A18.1-1999 edition of the Safety Standard for Platform Lifts and Stairway Chairlifts. We will also be moving into the 1999 edition of the Michigan Electrical Code.

Additional information will be provided in future publications of this newsletter and on the bureau's web site at www.cis.state.mi.us/bcc.

Michigan Code Books are Here!

The 2000 Michigan Building, Residential, Mechanical, and Plumbing Code books have arrived. A Codes and Standards Order Form is available on the bureau's web site at www.cis.state.mi.us/bcc/forms.htm. Questions regarding the 2000 Michigan codes may be directed to the respective division.

Applicability of the 2000 Michigan Residential Code

*By Larry Lehman, Assistant Chief
Plan Review/Building Division*

The 2000 Michigan Residential Code (MRC) became effective statewide on July 31, 2001. As a result, there have been questions raised regarding which code applies to residential construction. The MRC applies to the following residential occupancies **not more than three stories** in height:

1. Detached single family dwellings.
2. Two-family dwellings (duplexes).
3. Multiple single family dwellings (townhouses) with a separate means of egress and separated by fire-resistance rated wall assemblies which are structurally independent, or that meet the applicable exceptions contained in section R321.
4. Accessory structures to the above mentioned residences.

The Michigan Building, Electrical, Mechanical and Plumbing Codes are applicable to other residential occupancies such as Group R-1 (hotels and boarding houses), Group R-2 (apartments, dormitories, boarding houses, etc.), Group R-4 (residential care/assisted living) and the residential occupancies previously identified when more than three stories in height.

Questions may be directed to the Plan Review/Building Division at (517) 241-9317.



Notice to All Instructors and Providers of Continuing Education Programs for Code Officials

by Scott Fisher
Director, Office of Local Government and Consumer Services

As of July 31, 2001, all code enforcing agencies are required to enforce the Michigan Building, Mechanical and Plumbing Codes. As a result, all programs previously approved for the current registration cycle which contain technical credit hours must incorporate the new Michigan codes.

Additionally, all new programs submitted for technical credit hours must contain teaching criteria which incorporates the new Michigan codes.

All code amendments are available on the bureau's web site. If you have any questions regarding program criteria, please contact the Office of Local Government and Consumer Services at (517) 241-9347.

Visit the bureau's web site at
www.cis.state.mi.us/bcc

Education Classes Related to Electrical License Reexamination Requirements

by Mark Sisco
Deputy Director

At the Electrical Administrative Board meeting on April 20, 2001, the board approved an educational course for examinees who failed two examinations within two years. Prior to its approval of the course, the board discussed the requirements outlined in the board's General Rules regarding the criteria that educational courses must meet in order to receive board approval. Rule 338.1013a(2) states the following:

"If an applicant for a master electrician license or journeyman electrician license fails two examinations within two years, he or she shall be ineligible to qualify for examination for one year ... The application for reexamination shall include documentation of the successful completion of a board-approved course ***in the provisions of electrical code, electrical fundamentals, or electrical theory.***" (italics added for emphasis)

Additionally, Rule 338.1013(3) states that an applicant for a sign specialist license seeking reexamination must provide documentation of a board-approved course "in the applicable ***provisions of the electrical code and electrical fundamentals.***" (italics added for emphasis)

It is clear that the board's General Rules, referenced above, require course providers to demonstrate that the proposed courses meet the criteria set forth in the rules by focusing course outlines on the provisions of the electrical code, electrical fundamentals, and/or electrical theory depending upon the type of license the course is designed to address. There is no minimum requirement listed in the rules regarding the number of hours of training the course must provide.

The course provider is responsible for obtaining approval from the board in advance of providing the training by submitting an outline of course content to the bureau's Electrical Division. The applicant for reexamination is responsible for obtaining documentation from the course provider upon completion of the board-approved course and submitting it with his or her application.

If you have questions regarding approval of educational classes for persons seeking reexamination, please contact the Electrical Division at (517) 241-9320.

Who is the Mechanical Contractor of Record?

by Tennison B. Barry, Chief
Mechanical Division

Who is the mechanical contractor of record and what is his or her relationship to the company? Most licensed individuals believe that if their license is assigned to a company they are able to collect a fee for each permit that they sign for and have no responsibility for the work performed. That is not the case. The Forbes Mechanical Contractors Act, PA 192 of 1984 is the law that requires every individual, partnership, association, corporation, governmental subdivision, college, or university to have a contractor of record before going into the mechanical contracting business. The contractor of record must be an owner or employee of the company. An employee is defined as an individual who receives a W-2 statement.

The contractor of record is the person that holds the license and is responsible for all work performed by the company. Any code violations are the responsibility of the contractor of record whether he or she is the owner or employee of the company. This means if code violations are not corrected and administrative action becomes necessary the action will be taken against the contractor of record. The administrative action could include suspension or revocation of the mechanical contractor's license. Restitution may also be required.

If you are not a W-2 employee of a company you should not be the contractor of record for that company. Additionally, you should not allow others to perform work on permits that you have signed for.

Questions may be directed to the Mechanical Division at (517) 241-9325.

The State Construction Code Act

The State Construction Code Act was amended by Act 245, which provided for the administration and enforcement of single state construction codes. As a result, local units of government no longer have the option to amend the codes or adopt another national recognized code. The state electrical code became effective in December 1999 and the state building, mechanical, and plumbing codes became effective July 31, 2001.

BULLETIN

BUREAU OF CONSTRUCTION CODES

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER & INDUSTRY SERVICES

The BULLETIN is a quarterly publication of the Bureau of Construction Codes within the Michigan Department of Consumer & Industry Services. The BULLETIN is published for the information of the 48,000 plumbers, electricians, mechanical contractors, boiler and elevator licensees, plan reviewers, building officials, inspector registrants, manufactured home communities, installer/servicers, and retailers throughout the state.

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Boiler Permit Application

by Robert Aben, Chief
Boiler Division

Sections 17 and 18 of PA 290 require that installation and repair permits be secured before any work is performed. Section 18 regarding the repair of boilers provides relief in case of emergency maintenance. Determination of a situation as an emergency is the responsibility of the boiler owner. Such cases could be the failure of a boiler necessary for building heat during cold weather or failure of a power boiler necessary for providing steam for the production of electricity. These situations usually happen after normal work hours, weekends, and holidays.

In cases as mentioned, the boiler law, under section 18, allows repair work to begin before a permit has been secured. This results in some unspoken duties on the part of the owner or licensed repair contractor to assure compliance with the law.

Upon determination that the situation is an emergency and repairs must be started before a permit can be secured, the boiler owner or licensed repair contractor must attempt to contact a licensed inspector for verbal authorization. If the boiler is insured, contact the insurance company. If the boiler is uninsured or when contact with the insurance company fails, contact the state boiler division for approval to proceed. If the situation occurs during off hours, weekends or holidays, contact must be made on the next work day. Work may begin before contact is accomplished but the owner must assure properly licensed individuals are performing the work.

Although section 17 of the law governing installations does not address emergency situations, the same rational may apply. If the situation is an emergency and the resolution is replacement of the entire boiler, then replacement may begin before a permit is secured; however, contact with a licensed inspector must be made immediately.

Holiday Closing

State offices will be closed in observance of the following holiday:

September 3 - Labor Day

Scheduled Board Meetings

MEETING	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Board of Mechanical Rules	Sept. 5	9:00 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 2
Elevator Safety Board	Sept. 7	9:30 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 3
Board of Boiler Rules	Sept. 11	9:30 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 1
State Plumbing Board	Sept. 11	10:00 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 2
Construction Code Commission	Sept. 12	9:30 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 3
Manufacturing Housing Commission	Sept. 12	10:00 a.m.	Mercantile Way, Ste. 7
Barrier Free Design Board	Sept. 14	9:30 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 1
Electrical Administrative Board	Oct. 19	9:30 a.m.	Okemos-Conf. Room 1

Okemos - 2501 Woodlake Circle, Okemos
Mercantile Way, Ste. 7 - 6545 Mercantile Way, Lansing

License Exam Schedule

EXAM	DATE	LOCATION	DEADLINE
Boiler National Board Exam	September 5/6	Okemos	August 6
Boiler Installer/Repairer Exam	September 5/6	Okemos	August 6
Elevator Contractor & Certificate-of-Competency Exam	September 7	Okemos	August 17
Master & Journey Plumber Exam	September 12	East Lansing	August 24
Mechanical Contractor Exam	September 19	Lansing	August 22
Master & Journeyman Electrician Exam	September 27	Escanaba	August 29
Elevator Journeyperson Exam	October 17	Okemos	September 28
Elevator Contractor & Certificate-of-Competency Exam	November 2	Okemos	October 12

Dates and locations are subject to change.

Plumbing Examination Code Information

by Robert G. Konyndyk, Chief
Plumbing Division

The last Bureau of Construction Codes Bulletin provided detail on the State Plumbing Board's new journey examination. That change will take place September 12, 2001, to use an isometric work book rather than a lead project.

The next change affecting the examination process will be implemented at the December 5, 2001, examination conducted in Lansing. That change will be the use of the 2000 edition of the Michigan Plumbing Code, rather than the 1997 edition. The code change update became effective July 31, 2001, and provides for greater uniformity throughout the state. The new Michigan Plumbing Code adopts with amendments the 2000 International Plumbing Code and the 2000 International Residential Code. The board and the bureau will use the new Michigan Plumbing Code for the open book portions of the journey and master examination. That decision was based on the code's ability in addressing all topics related to plumbing applications.

The test will continue to be an open book test for journey and master applicants. The Bureau of Construction Codes' decision to publish Michigan code books including all amendments within one document will benefit all users and simplify the examination process when referencing the code.

Additional details will be distributed with examination packets and upon request. Questions may be directed to Robert Konyndyk, Chief Plumbing Division at (517) 241-9330.

Manufactured Housing Roundtable

by Rich VanderMolen
Director, Manufactured Housing and Land Development

On April 25, 2001, the Bureau of Construction Codes convened a meeting of manufactured housing representatives to discuss manufactured housing issues. Participants in the meeting included members of the Manufactured Housing Commission, representatives of the Michigan Manufactured Housing Association, Manufactured Home Owners Legislative Association, and local government.

A list of issues was developed from the concerns raised by the meeting participants. As a result, a committee was formed to review the relevant administrative rules and propose changes to address these issues.

It is anticipated the committee will meet into the fall. At their conclusion, a public forum will be held to gather feedback on the proposed amendments to the rules. The rules will then be prepared for Legislative approval followed by a public hearing.

Comments relative to the rules may be presented at the public forum or the public hearing. Written comments will be accepted until 21 days after the public hearing. Additional information will be provided in future publications of this newsletter and on the bureau's web site at www.cis.state.mi.us/bcc.

Office of Local Government and Consumer Services Has Moved

The bureau's Office of Local Government and Consumer Services has moved. All mail for this office should be directed to P.O. Box 30222, Lansing, Michigan 48909. The physical location of the office is 6546 Mercantile Way, Lansing. The telephone number remains 517/241-9347.

As a reminder, this office is responsible to process requests to enforce local building, electrical, mechanical, and plumbing codes. The office also handles complaints regarding electricians, mechanical contractors, plumbers, and complaints regarding the enforcement of barrier free design requirements. Additionally, inspector registration, training and educational requirements and instructor approvals for Act 54 are handled in this office.

Receiving Duplicate Copies of the BCC Bulletin?

The BCC Bulletin is mailed to all licensed electricians, plumbers, mechanical contractors, boiler installers/repairers/insurance inspectors, elevator contractors and journeypersons, licensed mobile home communities and installers/repairers, each township, village, city, and county clerk, all registered inspectors, premanufacturers, inspection agencies, special interest groups, and other interested parties. Currently we print 53,000 copies. Many of our licensees contact us after the distribution of the BCC Bulletin to let us know they are receiving duplicate copies.

If you are licensed under more than 1 trade license such as a mechanical contractor and a master or journey plumber or are a licensee and a registered inspector you will receive multiple copies. Some licensees hold 2-3 licenses and therefore, receive 2-3 copies.

Our goal is to provide a copy of the BCC Bulletin to all interested parties but at the same time make it cost effective by reducing the number of duplicate copies being printed and mailed. Although we cannot search our database for duplicate names, we are going to try a new approach. If you hold multiple trade licenses or hold a license and are a registered inspector and don't want to receive duplicate copies of the Bulletin, or for those who would prefer to download a copy from the Bureau's web site at www.cis.state.mi.us/bcc, please write to the Bulletin editor or e-mail the bureau at bccinfo@cis.state.mi.us. Please provide your license numbers and/or registration number and the name/company name, as it appears on your license for each license/registration you hold and indicate which license/registration you prefer we use in our mailing list. This will allow us to create a new mailing list for distribution of the bureau bulletin.

If you are on our interested party mailing list and prefer to download a copy from the bureau's web site or are no longer interested in receiving the bulletin, please provide a note or e-mail to remove your name from our mailing list. Please include the name and address as it appears on the bulletin.

Your cooperation to help the bureau more efficiently serve our customers is greatly appreciated.

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